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Testimony to House Federal and State Affairs Committee March 20, 2013

Presented by United Community Services of Johnson County

United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County is a community-based non-profit agency that provides data analysis, leads collaborative planning and mobilizes resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services. **UCS opposes HB 2192. Kansas should continue to permit qualified undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates.**

These young people have grown up in Kansas and, against the odds, graduated from high school and secured admission to a Kansas college or university. The vast majority of these talented and determined young adults will stay in Kansas, and want to become citizens. In the long-run, the state's economy benefits when its young adults are well-educated.

Research in other states has shown considerable positive economic impact from similar in-state tuition provisions. At this difficult economic time, Kansas should position itself to benefit from the contributions these young people have to offer. This is particularly so in 2013, as the federal government has created a legal avenue through which these very students can gain work authorization and protection from deportation in the United States.

Submitted by

Karen Wulkuhle, Executive Director

